

MAINE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Labor Market Information

INSIDE . . .

Cumberland County recorded the lowest unemployment rate at 2.6 percent.....page 3

Adjusted statewide unemployment rate dropped from 4.9 percent in March to 4.3 percent in Aprilpage 4

Nonfarm employment increased by 4,200 over the year.....page 6

*A publication of
the*

MAINE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
Labor Market
Information Services

John Dorrer
Division Director

Dana A. Evans
Editor

*The Maine Department
of Labor provides equal
opportunity employment and
programs. Auxiliary
aids and services provided
upon request to individuals
with disabilities.*

For more information,

Telephone (207) 287-2271
FAX (207) 287-2947
TTY 1-800-794-1110
E-Mail: Imi.me@Maine.gov

Visit our Home Page at
www.Maine.gov/labor/lmis

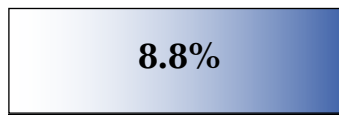
LABOR MARKET DIGEST

April Data

June 2004

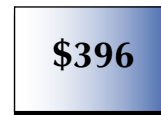
More education: Higher earnings, lower unemployment

**U.S. unemployment rate
of persons age 25
and over, 2003**



Less than a High
School Diploma

**U.S. median weekly earnings
of full-time wage and salary
workers age 25 and over, 2003**



\$396

5.5%

High School
Diploma, no
College

\$554

4.8%

Some College,
less than a
Bachelor's Degree

\$639

3.1%

Bachelor's Degree
or Higher

\$964

New data tell an old story: The more you learn, the more you earn—and the less likely you are to be unemployed. Earnings increase and unemployment decreases with additional years of education.

Education pays, in part, because employers believe educated workers learn tasks more easily and are better organized. However, the data here are averages; variations occur at all education levels. The biggest reason for the variety in earnings is the different occupations people enter as a result of their education.

Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics

Civilian Labor Force, Employed, and Unemployed by Labor Market Area, Not Seasonally Adjusted

AREA	CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE ¹			EMPLOYED ²			UNEMPLOYED ³			UNEMPLOYMENT RATE ⁴		
	Apr 04	Mar 04	Apr 03	Apr 04	Mar 04	Apr 03	Apr 04	Mar 04	Apr 03	Apr 04	Mar 04	Apr 03
LABOR MARKET AREAS												
Augusta	46,240	46,560	46,090	44,090	43,850	43,770	2,150	2,720	2,320	4.6%	5.8%	5.0%
Bangor MSA	54,700	54,800	53,800	52,800	52,500	52,000	1,900	2,300	1,800	3.4	4.1	3.4
Bath-Brunswick	34,740	34,650	34,000	33,570	33,130	32,600	1,180	1,520	1,400	3.4	4.4	4.1
Belfast	17,970	17,840	17,770	17,210	16,830	16,820	750	1,010	940	4.2	5.7	5.3
Biddeford	41,830	40,580	41,790	40,300	38,650	40,130	1,530	1,930	1,650	3.6	4.8	4.0
Boothbay Harbor	8,860	8,600	8,930	8,590	8,250	8,620	270	350	310	3.0	4.1	3.5
Bucksport	4,970	4,930	4,830	4,640	4,530	4,580	320	410	260	6.5	8.2	5.3
Calais	4,980	4,960	4,940	4,290	4,270	4,160	680	700	780	13.7	14.0	15.8
Dexter-Pittsfield	12,170	12,150	12,180	10,970	10,720	10,830	1,200	1,430	1,350	9.9	11.8	11.1
Dover-Foxcroft	6,920	6,990	7,020	6,380	6,400	6,320	540	590	700	7.8	8.5	10.0
Ellsworth-Bar Harbor	20,020	19,310	19,970	18,620	17,450	18,460	1,400	1,850	1,510	7.0	9.6	7.6
Farmington	17,510	17,950	17,190	16,300	16,810	15,850	1,210	1,140	1,330	6.9	6.3	7.8
Fort Kent	4,180	4,120	3,970	3,610	3,750	3,560	570	370	410	13.6	9.0	10.4
Greenville	950	960	940	820	890	800	130	70	140	13.3	7.4	15.3
Houlton	6,440	6,350	6,290	5,940	5,980	5,810	500	370	480	7.8	5.9	7.6
Jonesport-Milbridge	3,970	3,920	4,070	3,570	3,430	3,600	400	480	470	10.1	12.3	11.6
Kittery-York ⁵	22,450	22,680	22,360	22,010	21,770	21,380	440	920	970	2.0	4.0	4.3
Lewiston-Auburn MSA	55,000	55,300	54,200	52,800	52,700	51,600	2,200	2,600	2,600	4.0	4.7	4.8
Lincoln-Howland	5,930	5,890	6,110	4,960	4,970	5,440	970	920	670	16.3	15.7	11.0
Machias-Eastport	6,360	6,350	6,530	5,870	5,750	5,830	490	590	710	7.7	9.3	10.8
Madawaska	3,580	3,570	3,550	3,380	3,350	3,390	210	220	160	5.7	6.1	4.5
Millinocket-East Millinocket	4,190	4,260	4,530	3,380	3,420	2,850	810	840	1,680	19.4	19.6	37.1
Norway-Paris	11,900	11,820	11,920	11,080	10,830	11,130	820	980	790	6.8	8.3	6.7
Outer Bangor	9,990	10,160	9,920	9,390	9,450	9,330	600	720	590	6.0	7.1	6.0
Patten-Island Falls	1,810	1,790	1,760	1,590	1,630	1,520	220	160	240	12.1	8.7	13.6
Portland MSA	142,200	141,200	139,500	138,500	136,800	135,500	3,700	4,500	4,100	2.6	3.2	2.9
Presque Isle-Caribou	20,940	21,030	20,420	19,780	19,730	19,200	1,170	1,300	1,210	5.6	6.2	5.9
Rockland	23,570	23,280	23,640	22,790	22,220	22,530	780	1,060	1,110	3.3	4.5	4.7
Rumford	9,820	10,690	9,510	9,030	9,970	8,670	800	720	840	8.1	6.7	8.8
Sanford	21,660	22,060	22,640	20,520	20,400	20,630	1,140	1,660	2,010	5.3	7.5	8.9
Sebang Lakes Region	13,530	13,420	13,750	12,920	12,620	13,070	620	800	680	4.5	5.9	4.9
Skowhegan	15,360	15,350	15,830	13,930	13,890	14,210	1,430	1,460	1,610	9.3	9.5	10.2
Stonington	5,920	5,690	5,880	5,700	5,390	5,650	210	300	220	3.6	5.2	3.8
Van Buren	1,420	1,410	1,400	1,330	1,320	1,290	90	100	110	6.1	6.7	7.5
Waterville	24,670	24,700	24,270	23,230	23,000	22,630	1,440	1,700	1,640	5.9	6.9	6.8
MAINE	686,700	685,300	681,600	654,000	646,600	643,800	32,700	38,700	37,800	4.8	5.6	5.5
UNITED STATES (000)	146,260	146,525	145,925	138,423	137,691	137,424	7,837	8,834	8,501	5.4	6.0	5.8

¹ Civilian labor force, employed, and unemployed estimates are by place of residence. Current month estimates are preliminary; prior month and year-ago estimates are revised. Items may not add due to rounding. All data exclude members of the Armed Forces. MSA stands for Metropolitan Statistical Area.

² Total employment includes nonfarm wage and salary workers, agricultural workers, unpaid family workers, domestics, the self employed, and workers involved in labor disputes.

³ People are classified as unemployed, regardless of their eligibility for unemployment benefits or public assistance, if they meet all of the following criteria: 1) they were not employed during the survey week; 2) they were available for work at that time; and 3) they made specific efforts to find employment some time during the prior four weeks. Persons laid off from their form unemployed.

⁴ The unemployemen

⁵ Kittery-York is the five-town Maine portion of the Portsmouth-Rochester PMSA which includes towns in both Maine and New Hampshire.

Source: Maine Department of Labor, Labor Market Information Services, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Civilian Labor Force, Employed, and Unemployed by County, Not Seasonally Adjusted¹

AREA	CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE			EMPLOYED			UNEMPLOYED			UNEMPLOYMENT RATE		
	Apr 04	Mar 04	Apr 03	Apr 04	Mar 04	Apr 03	Apr 04	Mar 04	Apr 03	Apr 04	Mar 04	Apr 03
COUNTY												
Androscoggin	61,840	62,200	61,080	59,330	59,190	58,000	2,510	3,010	3,080	4.1%	4.8%	5.0%
Aroostook	38,000	37,880	36,940	35,230	35,340	34,360	2,780	2,540	2,580	7.3	6.7	7.0
Cumberland	148,090	147,160	145,640	144,200	142,300	141,170	3,890	4,860	4,470	2.6	3.3	3.1
Franklin	14,690	15,010	14,360	13,680	14,120	13,300	1,010	890	1,060	6.9	5.9	7.4
Hancock	28,200	27,290	28,000	26,450	24,970	26,190	1,760	2,320	1,800	6.2	8.5	6.4
Kennebec	60,300	60,610	59,910	57,400	57,010	56,670	2,890	3,600	3,240	4.8	5.9	5.4
Knox	21,030	20,770	21,060	20,330	19,820	20,090	700	950	970	3.3	4.6	4.6
Lincoln	17,430	17,160	17,480	16,860	16,390	16,750	570	770	730	3.3	4.5	4.2
Oxford	26,310	27,100	26,110	24,500	25,090	24,250	1,810	2,000	1,860	6.9	7.4	7.1
Penobscot	81,360	81,590	81,050	76,500	76,140	75,550	4,860	5,460	5,500	6.0	6.7	6.8
Piscataquis	7,990	8,070	8,100	7,320	7,400	7,230	670	670	860	8.4	8.3	10.7
Sagadahoc	15,810	15,750	15,380	15,210	15,010	14,770	600	740	610	3.8	4.7	4.0
Somerset	24,910	24,850	25,300	22,590	22,390	22,710	2,330	2,460	2,590	9.3	9.9	10.2
Waldo	23,480	23,450	23,210	22,400	21,970	21,920	1,080	1,480	1,290	4.6	6.3	5.5
Washington	15,700	15,600	15,940	14,110	13,800	13,960	1,590	1,800	1,980	10.1	11.6	12.4
York	101,570	100,840	102,080	97,880	95,670	96,920	3,690	5,180	5,160	3.6	5.1	5.1
MAINE	686,700	685,300	681,600	654,000	646,600	643,800	32,700	38,700	37,800	4.8	5.6	5.5
UNITED STATES (000)	146,260	146,525	145,925	138,423	137,691	137,424	7,837	8,834	8,501	5.4	6.0	5.8

¹ See page 2 for footnotes 1 through 4 and source.

Area Analyst's Corner

Central Maine Ken Bridges (207) 624-5199

FirstPark in Oakland is getting its first large tenant, **LL Bean**, who is locating a new customer assistance center there. ♦ The first companies to take advantage of Pine Tree Zone tax incentives in the Kennebec District are **Downeast Woodcrafters** in Skowhegan, **Tex-Tech Industries** in Monmouth, **Morgan Lumber** in Bingham, and **Walpole Woodworkers** in Pittsfield. These companies are expected to add up to 140 new jobs. ♦ **Osram Sylvania** in Waldoboro is sending part of its production of incandescent lighting to the Czech Republic, resulting in the loss of 40 jobs.

Western Maine Gerard Dennison (207) 753-9045

Safe Handling of Auburn will build a new \$1.5 million talc processing manufacturing plant on the Rodman Road and spend \$2.5 million on machinery and equipment. Talc, combined with other materials, forms a slurry that is used for papermaking. Local paper manufacturers will find it more economical to purchase the mixture from Safe Handling instead of transporting it from producers. The 55-acre site is located in a Pine Tree Zone with rail access. The project is expected to add 50 jobs. ♦ The first **Lowe's Home Improvement Center** in Maine is being built in Auburn. The new store is expected to employ 175 after completion in late 2004.

North/East Maine Craig Holland (207) 941-3076

The newly created **Lincoln Paper and Tissue Company** began calling in former workers on June 1st to restart the mill. An estimated 350 employees of the bankrupt Lincoln Pulp and Paper are expected to be hired over the startup period. ♦ **Katahdin Paper** restarted a coated paper machine in the currently shuttered Millinocket facility, which has not operated since the bankruptcy of Great Northern Paper nearly one and a half years ago. Approximately 130 employees have been hired to operate, maintain, and service the Number 11 paper machine.

Southern Maine Paul Trahan (207) 822-0216

South Portland-based **Wright Express** received the Department of Defense Pro Patria Award for 2003. The honor is given for employer support of National Guard and Reserve troops on active duty. It also recognizes the company's aid provided to the families of troops stationed on foreign soil. ♦ The Portland office of **MACTEC**, an environmental engineering company headquartered in Atlanta, Georgia, has been given the American Council of Engineering Companies Engineering Excellence Award. MACTEC was cited for its work on the restoration and cleanup of the former Eastland Woolen Mill site in Corrina. The project came in under budget and ahead of schedule.

Civilian Labor Force, Employed, and Unemployed in Maine, Seasonally Adjusted (in thousands)

ITEM	2004				2003								
	Apr	Mar	Feb	Jan	Dec	Nov	Oct	Sep	Aug	Jul	Jun	May	Apr
Civilian Labor Force	695.5	693.7	698.1	699.0	699.4	697.9	696.0	696.6	695.6	693.8	691.3	690.9	690.1
Employed	665.9	659.8	663.7	665.4	663.2	662.0	659.9	660.4	660.0	658.3	656.6	656.4	655.4
Unemployed	29.6	33.9	34.4	33.7	36.2	35.9	36.2	36.1	35.7	35.5	34.6	34.4	34.7
Unemployment Rate (%)	4.3	4.9	4.9	4.8	5.2	5.1	5.2	5.2	5.1	5.1	5.0	5.0	5.0

¹ See page 2 for footnotes 1 through 4 and source.

Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment in Maine, Seasonally Adjusted¹ (in thousands)

INDUSTRY	2004				2003								
	Apr	Mar	Feb	Jan	Dec	Nov	Oct	Sep	Aug	Jul	Jun	May	Apr
Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment ²	607.5	607.5	607.3	607.7	609.1	608.0	607.2	607.0	607.0	605.9	603.9	604.5	603.8
Construction	30.9	30.9	30.9	31.1	31.2	31.1	30.8	30.6	30.6	30.6	30.6	30.4	30.0
Manufacturing	61.7	61.2	61.2	62.1	63.0	63.5	63.4	63.1	63.2	63.4	63.3	63.8	63.8
Trade, Transportation and Public Utilities	123.0	123.7	123.9	123.7	124.7	124.3	123.8	123.2	123.6	122.9	122.7	123.0	122.5
Professional and Business Services	50.2	49.8	50.2	50.8	51.3	51.5	51.5	51.0	50.7	50.3	49.8	50.1	50.2
Educational and Health Services	108.1	108.0	107.9	107.7	107.5	107.8	107.3	107.5	107.2	107.2	106.6	106.4	106.4
Leisure and Hospitality Services	58.5	59.2	59.4	59.2	59.1	58.2	58.7	58.2	58.5	58.4	57.9	58.3	57.8
Government	104.0	104.0	103.8	104.1	103.8	103.5	103.2	103.2	103.2	103.6	103.4	103.2	103.6

¹ See footnotes 1 and 2 on page 7. ²The nonfarm wage and salary estimate is seasonally adjusted independently. Not all supersectors are seasonally adjusted. Natural resources, information, financial activities, and other services are not suitable for seasonal adjustment because they have very little seasonal and irregular movement. Source: see page 2.

Maine Unemployment Rate Falls to 4.3 Percent in April

State Labor Commissioner Laura Fortman announced that the seasonally-adjusted April unemployment rate for Maine was 4.3 percent, down from 4.9 percent in March. The Maine unemployment rate remained well below the national April rate of 5.6 percent.

“The seasonally-adjusted Maine unemployment rate fell between March and April due in large part to an increase in the number of self employed. There were also slight wage and salary job gains in professional and business services and manufacturing,” said Commissioner Fortman. “It is encouraging to see the unemployment rate fall to 4.3 percent in April. However, it will take more than one month’s data to indicate a significant trend in labor market conditions.”

Over the past year the seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate also dropped, from 5.0 percent in April 2003 to 4.3 percent in April 2004. Seasonally-adjusted nonfarm wage and salary jobs rose by 3,700. Job gains were recorded in health care and social assistance, other services, construction, leisure and hospitality services, and trade. Partly offsetting the job gains, losses were recorded primarily in the manufacturing sector, with the largest declines in textiles, paper, wood products, and computers and electronic products.

Other New England states reporting their seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate for April include Vermont, 3.6 percent; New Hampshire, 3.9 percent; Connecticut, 4.5

percent; and Massachusetts, 4.8 percent. The adjusted national rate for April was 5.6 percent, down from 5.7 percent in March and 6.0 percent in April 2003.

The not-seasonally-adjusted Maine unemployment rate for April was 4.8 percent, down from 5.6 percent for March and 5.5 percent for April 2003. The unadjusted national rate was 5.4 percent for April, down from 6.0 percent in March and 5.8 percent in April 2003. Not-seasonally-adjusted April unemployment rates for Maine counties ranged from 2.6 percent in Cumberland County to 10.1 percent in Washington County.

Not-seasonally-adjusted nonfarm wage and salary jobs in Maine rose by 7,600 between March and April to 599,100, as employers started gearing up for the busy summer season. Job gains were recorded in accommodation and food services, construction, retail trade, and professional and business services.

Between April 2003 and April 2004, not-seasonally-adjusted nonfarm wage and salary jobs rose by 4,200. Job gains were recorded in health care and social assistance, construction, retail trade, other services, and food services and drinking places. Losses were registered primarily in manufacturing, with the largest declines in textiles, paper, wood products, and computers and electronic products.

Selected Regular Unemployment Compensation Program Indicators

Key Data	Apr 2004	Mar 2004	Apr 2003
Average Duration	17.3	17.7	17.5
Average Weekly Benefit Amount*	\$234.47	\$233.99	\$227.87
Exhaustees	1,349	1,400	1,579

* For totally unemployed claimants, excluding dependency allowances.

Weekly Initial Claims

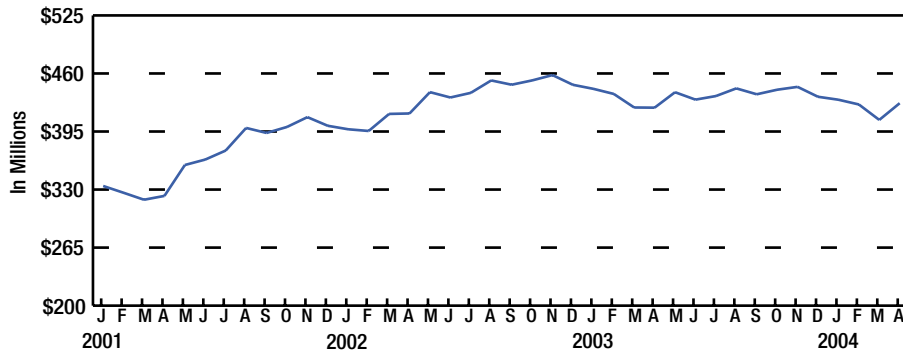
Week	5/15	5/8	5/1	4/24	4/17	4/10	4/3
2004	1,058	778	1,439	1,175	1,216	1,487	1,701
Week	5/17	5/10	5/3	4/26	4/19	4/12	4/5
2003	1,189	1,203	1,516	1,176	1,329	1,456	1,832

Continued Claims Less Partial*

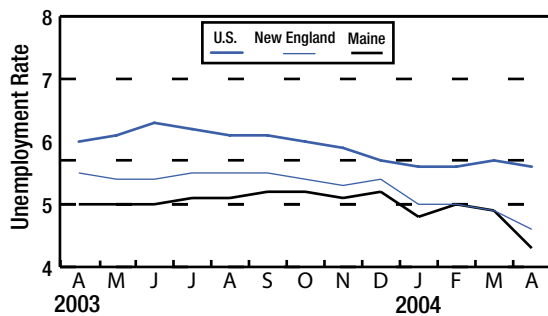
Apr 2004	Mar 2004	Apr 2003
11,401	13,534	14,106

* For the week including the 12th of the month.

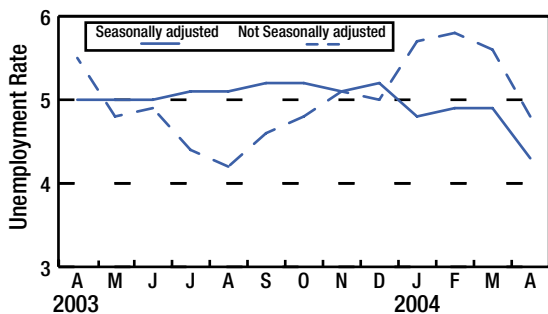
Monthly Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund Balance



Unemployment Rates, Seasonally Adjusted



Unemployment Rates for Maine



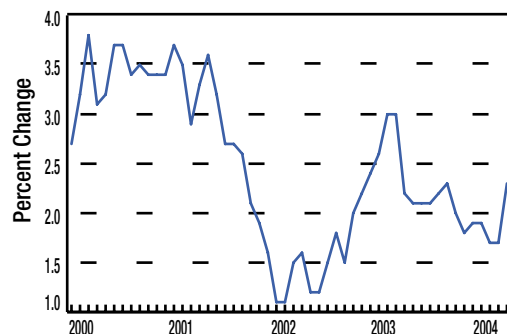
U.S. Consumer Price Index

for all urban consumers (CPI-U)

Item	Apr 04	Mar 04	Apr 03	Dec 03
(1982-1984 = 100) All Items	188.0	187.4	183.8	184.3

Percent Change from Prior Month	+0.3%
Percent Change from 12 Months Ago	+2.3%
Percent change from Last December	+2.0%

Over-the-Year Change in CPI-U



Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment, Not Seasonally Adjusted (in thousands)

INDUSTRY	MAINE			PORTLAND MSA			LEWISTON-AUBURN MSA		
	Apr 04	Mar 04	Apr 03	Apr 04	Mar 04	Apr 03	Apr 04	Mar 04	Apr 03
Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment¹	599.1	591.5	594.9	156.5	154.2	154.5	46.5	46.3	46.2
Total Private	491.7	483.7	488.2	135.5	133.1	133.5	40.8	40.6	40.6
Goods Producing	92.5	90.8	93.8	19.2	18.5	18.3	8.4	8.5	8.7
Natural Resources and Mining	2.0	2.7	2.0	*	*	*	*	*	*
Logging	1.9	2.6	1.9	*	*	*	*	*	*
Construction	29.6	27.5	28.5	*	*	*	*	*	*
Construction of Buildings	7.9	7.7	7.5	*	*	*	*	*	*
Heavy and Civil Engineering Construction	3.5	3.0	3.8	*	*	*	*	*	*
Specialty Trade Contractors	18.2	16.8	17.2	*	*	*	*	*	*
Manufacturing	60.9	60.6	63.3	11.0	10.6	10.9	6.1	6.2	6.4
Durable Goods	32.6	32.5	33.6	*	*	*	*	*	*
Wood Product Manufacturing	6.1	6.0	6.4	*	*	*	*	*	*
Computer and Electronic Product Mfg.	3.9	3.9	4.2	2.6	2.4	2.4	*	*	*
Transportation Equipment Mfg.	10.1	10.1	10.1	*	*	*	*	*	*
Non-Durable Goods	28.3	28.1	29.7	*	*	*	*	*	*
Leather and Allied Product Mfg.	2.3	2.3	2.5	*	*	*	*	*	*
Paper Manufacturing	9.5	9.4	10.0	*	*	*	*	*	*
Service-Providing	506.6	500.7	501.1	137.3	135.7	136.2	38.1	37.8	37.5
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	119.7	118.5	118.0	32.7	32.8	32.5	9.2	9.1	9.3
Wholesale Trade	20.7	20.6	20.5	7.5	7.4	7.2	1.3	1.3	1.4
Retail Trade	83.1	81.9	81.6	20.4	20.6	20.5	6.6	6.5	6.6
Motor Vehicle and Parts Dealers	10.3	10.0	10.3	*	*	*	*	*	*
Food and Beverage Stores	19.0	18.9	18.5	4.6	4.5	4.4	*	*	*
General Merchandise Stores	11.0	10.8	10.8	*	*	*	*	*	*
Nonstore Retailers	7.0	7.2	7.0	*	*	*	*	*	*
Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities	15.9	16.0	15.9	4.8	4.8	4.8	1.3	1.3	1.3
Utilities	2.0	2.0	2.0	*	*	*	*	*	*
Transportation and Warehousing	13.9	14.0	13.9	*	*	*	*	*	*
Information	11.0	11.1	11.3	4.3	4.3	4.2	0.7	0.7	0.7
Publishing Industries	3.4	3.5	3.5	*	*	*	*	*	*
Financial Activities	34.7	34.6	35.0	14.1	13.9	14.3	3.0	3.0	3.0
Finance and Insurance	28.2	28.1	28.4	11.7	11.6	11.9	*	*	*
Insurance Carriers and Related Activities	12.6	12.6	12.9	*	*	*	*	*	*
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	6.5	6.5	6.6	*	*	*	*	*	*
Professional and Business Services	50.3	49.1	50.1	18.6	18.4	18.9	5.7	5.6	5.7
Professional, Scientific, and Tech.	22.5	22.5	22.2	*	*	*	*	*	*
Management of Companies and Enterpr.	5.9	5.7	5.9	*	*	*	*	*	*
Administrative and Support and Wast.	21.9	20.9	22.0	*	*	*	*	*	*
Education and Health Services	108.9	108.7	107.2	26.5	26.2	25.5	9.1	9.1	8.7
Educational Services	18.7	18.7	18.6	*	*	*	*	*	*
Health Care and Social Assistance	90.2	90.0	88.6	23.2	23.0	22.6	*	*	*
Ambulatory Health Care Services	23.6	23.6	23.5	*	*	*	*	*	*
Hospitals	27.0	26.9	26.1	*	*	*	*	*	*
Nursing and Residential Care Facili.	23.0	22.9	22.6	*	*	*	*	*	*
Social Assistance	16.6	16.6	16.4	*	*	*	*	*	*
Leisure and Hospitality	53.3	49.6	52.5	14.2	13.1	14.2	3.3	3.2	3.2
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	7.3	7.7	7.1	*	*	*	*	*	*
Accommodation and Food Services	46.0	41.9	45.4	*	*	*	*	*	*
Accommodation	8.3	7.1	8.5	*	*	*	*	*	*
Food Services and Drinking Places	37.7	34.8	36.9	*	*	*	*	*	*
Other Services	21.3	21.3	20.3	5.9	5.9	5.6	1.4	1.4	1.3
Repair and Maintenance	5.4	5.3	5.3	*	*	*	*	*	*
Government	107.4	107.8	106.7	21.0	21.1	21.0	5.7	5.7	5.6
Federal	14.4	14.4	14.1	2.2	2.2	2.3	0.3	0.3	0.3
State	29.2	29.4	28.8	5.6	5.8	5.7	1.0	1.0	0.9
Local ²	63.8	64.0	63.8	13.2	13.1	13.0	4.4	4.4	4.4

Footnotes: See page 7

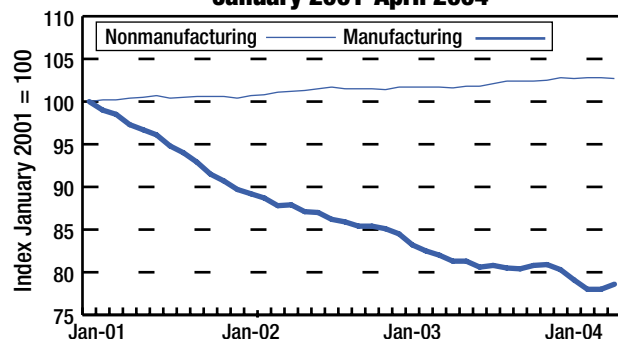
Earnings and Hours of Production Workers in Manufacturing Industries¹ Not Seasonally Adjusted

AREA AND INDUSTRY	AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS			AVERAGE WEEKLY HOURS			AVERAGE HOURLY EARNINGS			ANNUAL AVERAGE HOURLY EARNINGS		
	Apr 04	Mar 04	Apr 03	Apr 04	Mar 04	Apr 03	Apr 04	Mar 04	Apr 03	2003	2002	2001
STATEWIDE												
Manufacturing	649.64	663.07	646.01	38.6	39.8	40.3	16.83	16.66	16.03	\$16.28	\$15.55	\$14.71
Durable Goods	632.65	657.43	636.77	38.6	39.7	40.2	16.39	16.56	15.84	16.24	15.34	14.50
Nondurable Goods	667.01	669.12	655.29	38.6	39.9	40.4	17.28	16.77	16.22	16.31	15.75	14.92
PORTLAND MSA												
Manufacturing	527.57	548.23	550.99	39.4	40.7	41.9	13.39	13.47	13.15	13.06	12.92	12.52

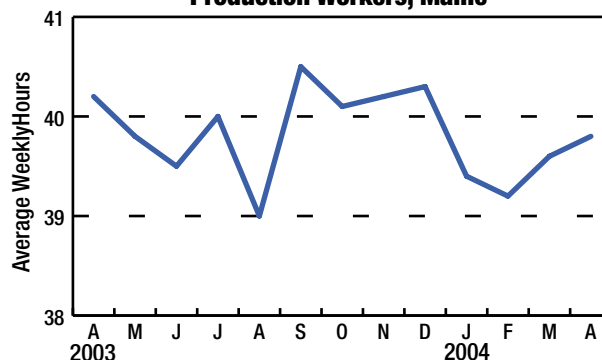
¹ Hours worked and earnings data are computed based on payroll figures for the week including the 12th of the month for manufacturing production workers. Average hourly earnings are calculated on a gross basis, and include such factors as premium pay for overtime and shift differential, as well as changes in basic hourly and incentive rates of pay. Average weekly earnings are the product of weekly hours worked and hourly earnings.

Source: See page 2.

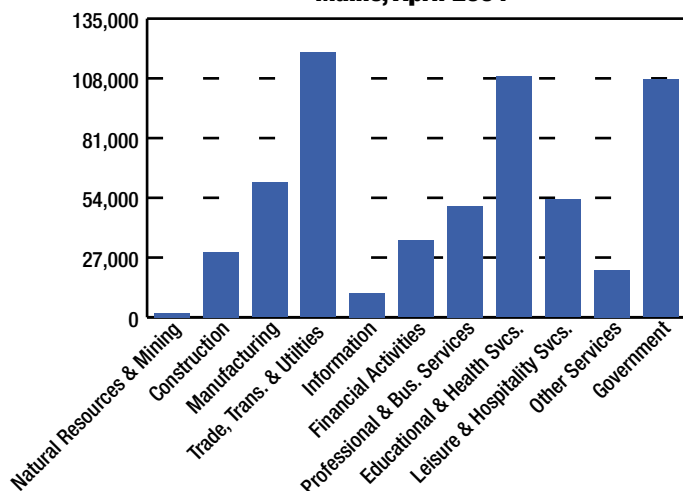
**Nonfarm Employment Trend by Sector
January 2001-April 2004¹**



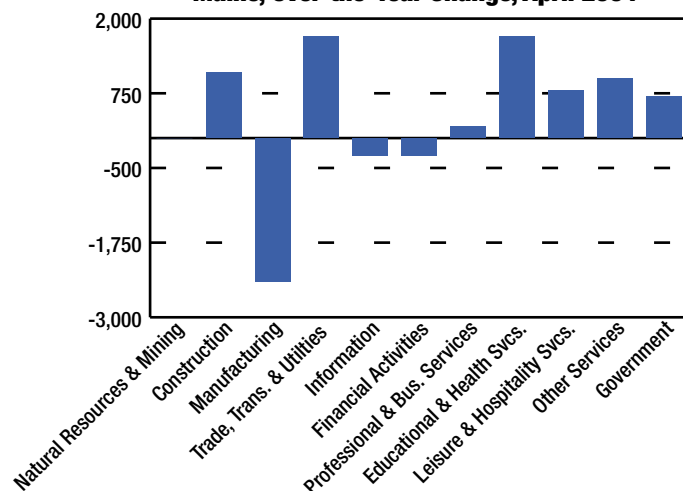
**Hours Worked by Manufacturing
Production Workers, Maine²**



**Nonfarm Employment by Industry Supersector
Maine, April 2004²**



**Nonfarm Employment by Industry Supersector
Maine, Over-the-Year Change, April 2004²**



¹ Seasonally Adjusted. ² Not Seasonally Adjusted.

Footnotes: From page 6.

¹ Nonfarm wage and salary employment estimates include all full- and part-time wage and salary workers who worked during or received pay for the pay period which includes the 12th of the month. Domestic workers in private households, proprietors, the self-employed, and unpaid family workers are excluded. Estimates measure the number of jobs by industry. Current month's estimates are preliminary; prior month and year-ago estimates are revised. These estimates are benchmarked to March 2003. As a measure of reliability, the March 2003 benchmark revision for total nonfarm wage and salary employment was .02 percent lower than the original sample-based estimate.

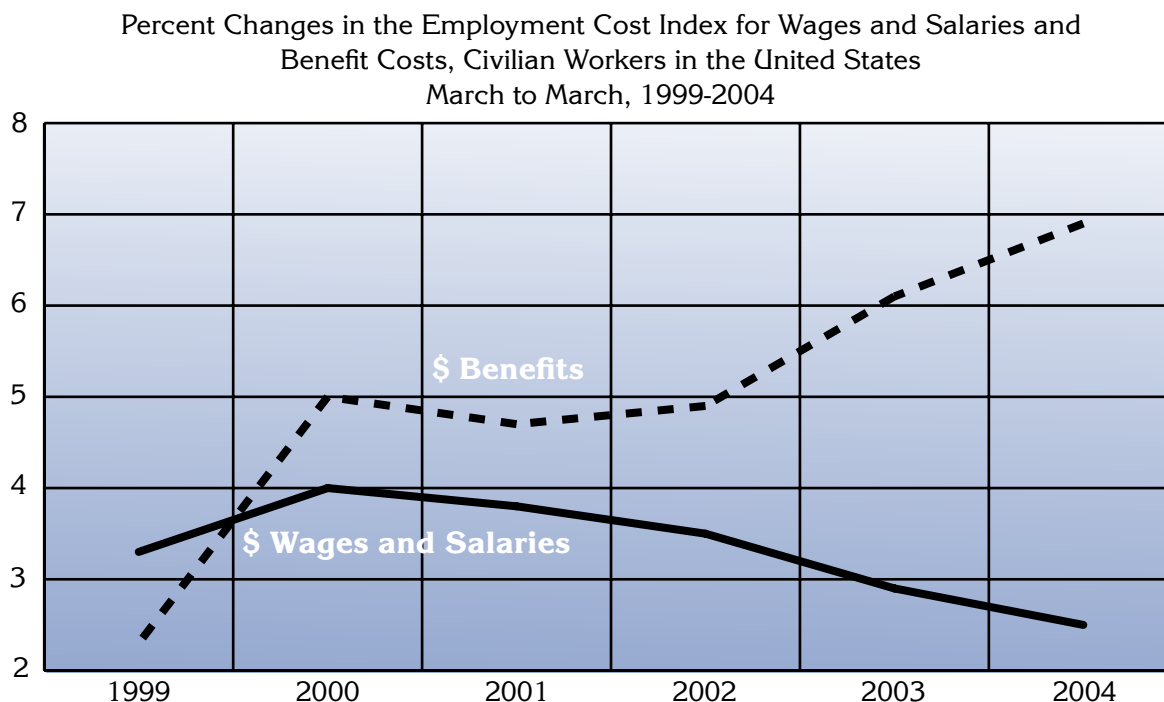
² Regular teachers are included in summer months whether or not specifically paid in those months.

* Where an employment estimate is not entered, either the data is not available in sufficient detail for publication or is nondisclosable by law.

Source: See page 2.

Wages and Salaries Increasing at Slower Rate Than Benefits

Benefit costs for civilian workers in the United States rose more rapidly than wages and salaries for the fifth consecutive year.



The Employment Cost Index (ECI), a component of the National Compensation Survey, measures changes in compensation costs, which include wages, salaries, and employer costs for employee benefits.

The compensation gains for civilian workers for the year ending March 2004 was 3.8 percent compared to a 3.9 percent gain for the years ending March 2002 and March 2003.

The components of compensation show significant differences. While increases in wages and salaries turned down, benefit costs rose sharply during the year. For civilian work-

ers, wages and salaries inched up 2.5 percent in the year ending March 2004, compared with a gain of 6.9 percent for benefits.

These data are a product of the BLS Employment Cost Trends program. Annual changes are March to March. "Civilian workers" include those in private industry and state and local government. The ECI excludes the self-employed and farm, private household, and Federal government employees.

Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

If you do NOT desire to continue receiving this publication, check here ☐ and return this cover to the address below.
If your address has changed, please indicate change and return this cover to the address below.

Maine Department of Labor
Labor Market Information Services
19 Union Street
Augusta, Maine 04330-6826

OFFICIAL BUSINESS
PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE \$300
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

PRESORTED FIRST CLASS
MAIL
POSTAGE PAID
US DEPT. OF LABOR
PERMIT NO. G-12